

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.



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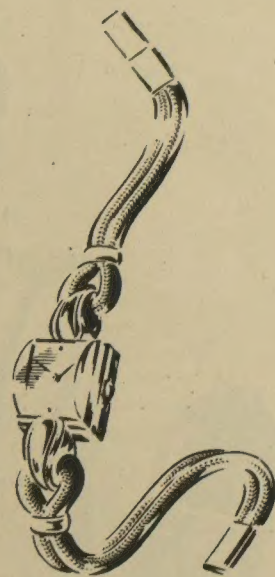
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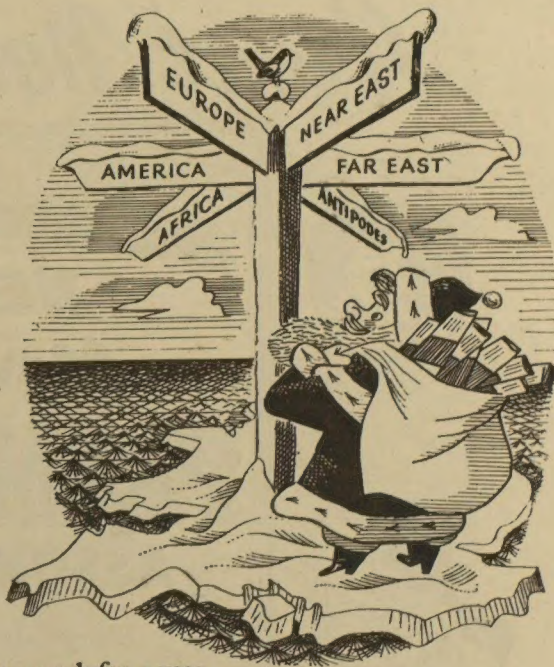
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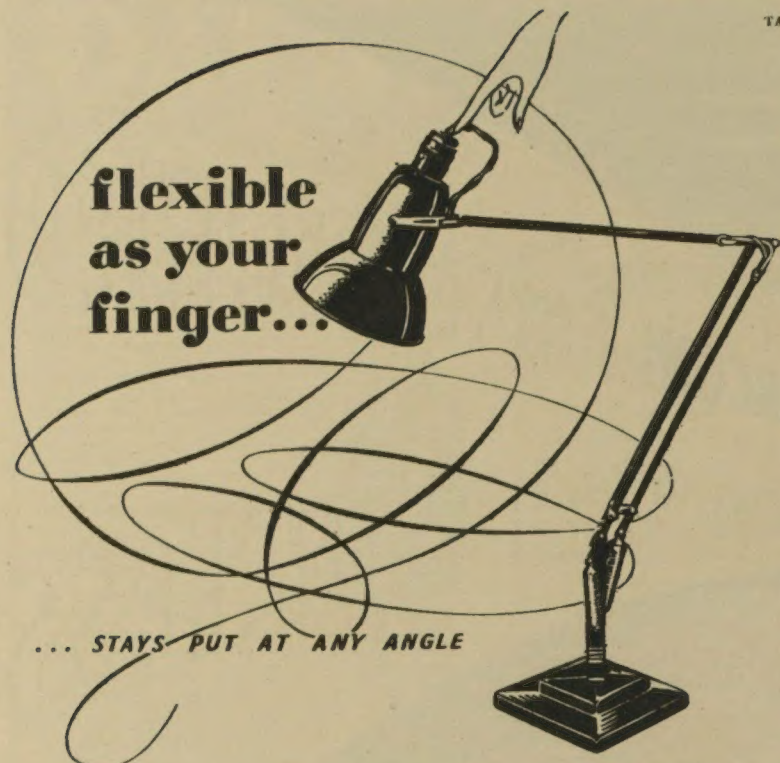
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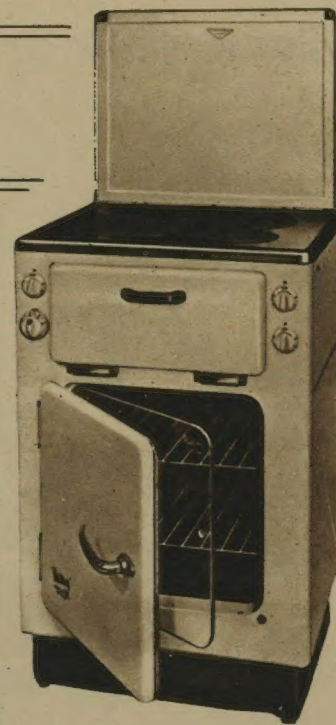
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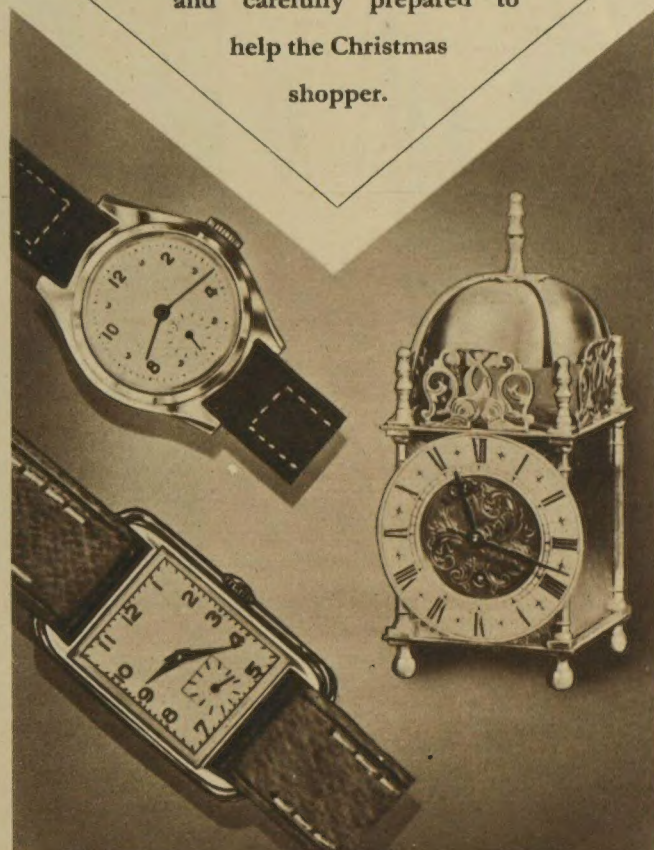
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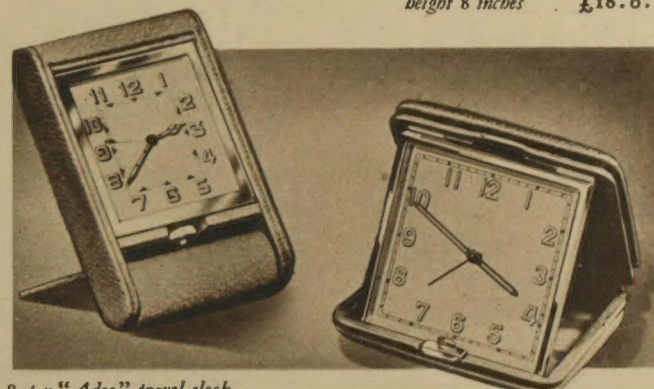
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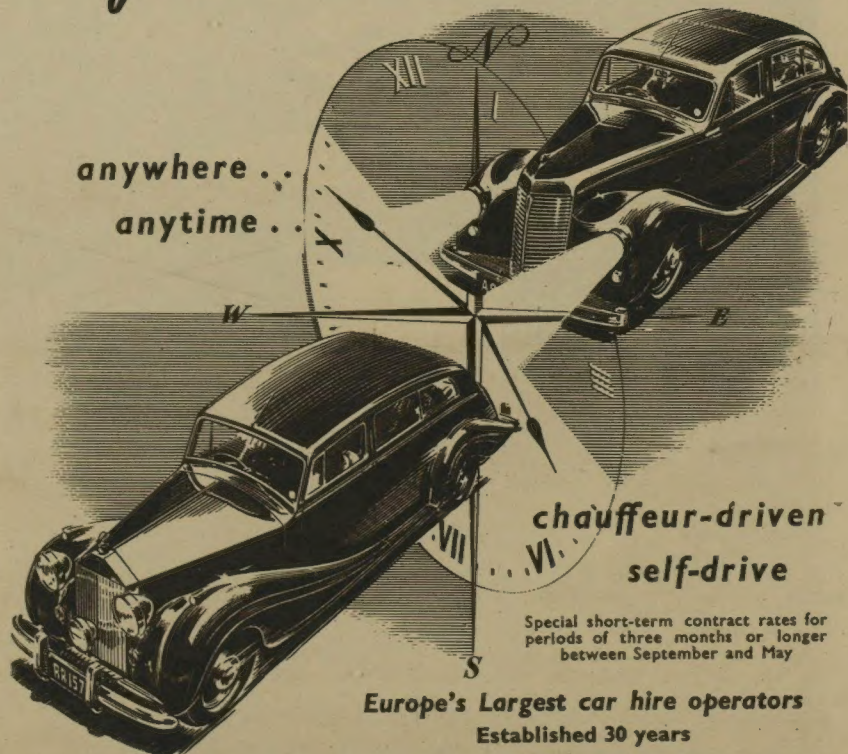
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1951.



A GREAT ENGLISHMAN TO WHOM ALL THE COUNTRY WISHED MANY HAPPY RETURNS ON HIS 77TH BIRTHDAY:
MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, AT NO. 10, DOWNING STREET, WITH MRS. CHURCHILL.

Mr. Winston Churchill, whose genius—compounded of inspiration, wisdom and experience—guided the country through war perils, is once more at the helm of the State and once again many complicated and dangerous problems must be solved before calm waters can be entered. The Prime Minister reached the age of seventy-seven on November 30. He spent the day at No. 10, Downing Street

and in the evening held a small dinner-party for members of his family and personal friends. It may be recalled that Mr. Churchill first entered Parliament in 1900 and first held office under the Liberal Ministry of 1906-10 as Under-Secretary [of State for the Colonies from 1906-8. His marriage to Miss Clementine Hozier took place in 1908.



By ARTHUR BRYANT.

I HAPPENED to be born a little while before the end of the nineteenth century—a late, very late, Victorian—and, if by any improbable chance I grow to be a centenarian (and what a colossal bore I shall then be!), my span of life will about cover the twentieth century. Even now, when it has only covered just over half of it, I seem to have lived through some very remarkable changes and to have seen a great deal of surprising history. Born into the gaslit London world of the hansom-cab and the bowler hat, of W. G. Grace's closing days and of the crowning, heavily gilded glories of the Victorian Empire, I have witnessed two world wars, the coming of the aeroplane, the submarine, wireless and atomic bomb, the loss of half that Empire, the virtual elimination of the British aristocracy, *haute bourgeoisie* and country gentry, the disruption of Europe and the socialisation of Britain. I say socialisation without any Party implication, for it seems, reflecting on the matter in one's capacity as taxpayer, that to a Conservative, or indeed a Liberal, of my father's generation the distinction between the probable fiscal policy of Mr. Butler and the proved one of Mr. Gaitskell would appear so slight as to be almost negligible. For both these distinguished and cautious statesmen of the third quarter of the twentieth century would almost certainly have appeared to a property-owning or salary-earning citizen of the last quarter of the nineteenth century as a species of the most extreme and dangerous socialist, not to say revolutionary, of the reddest possible dye—as subversionists, robbers and confiscationists! I hope they will forgive me for looking at them for a moment through the, for us, distorting lenses of fifty years ago.

The implication of all this—of a transition so vast and bewildering—on the minds of most of my contemporaries, is to make them imagine that they are living in an age wholly unique, the witnesses of phenomenal changes such as men have never before known. Yet how far this is from being the truth can be seen by picturing the life, and the impact on it of public affairs, of an inhabitant of this island, born at the beginning and dying at the end of any of the twenty centuries of our recorded history, except possibly two. A centenarian born

in England in the same year as Macaulay, and living out his days in this then sheltered and fortunate island, would have experienced, it is true, little cataclysmic from national and international events. As a boy he would have shared the fears of his elders that Boney might land on our southern shores and, at fifteen, would have heard the news of Waterloo. In his early thirties, too, he might have been alarmed, needlessly, by the Reform Bill and agrarian riots, and in his forties by the far more serious disturbances in the distressed manufacturing districts. But after the abortive Chartist alarms of '48, the Crimea War and the Indian Mutiny, he would have had nothing really serious of a public kind to agitate him but an occasional mild epidemic of cholera or smallpox. The same is probably more or less true of a Roman citizen living in southern Britain in the third century after Christ. But it is true of no other century in our history. We need not pursue the bloody course of our island story during the six terrible centuries that divided the first successful Pictish invasion of Roman Britain from the Norman Conquest; a decade without invasion or civil war of some kind or another was about the most anyone could have hoped to enjoy in this long stretch of time. Let us start only at the twelfth century: the one that saw the rising of the earliest and grandest parts of most of our cathedrals. Our Englishman of that century—assuming he did not live near the Scottish border, in which case bloodshed and ruin would have been almost as normal incidents of his life as rainfall—would have been plunged in early middle-age into a horrible epoch of civil war and anarchy lasting for nearly two decades, "nineteen long

winters . . . when God slept." His successor of the thirteenth century would have witnessed in the first half of his life the invasion of England by the French and the two great civil wars that culminated, the one in Magna Carta, the other in the beginnings of our parliamentary system. A fourteenth-century centenarian would have witnessed the Black Death, the Peasants' Revolt, the violent dethronement of poor King Richard and the first half of the Hundred Years War. A fifteenth-century one, after rejoicing at the great and unexpected victory of Agincourt, would have seen the latter and disastrous end of those wars and, in the second half of his life, the appalling disasters, slaughters and miseries of the Wars of the Roses. It is a comfort to turn to the comparative peace of the sixteenth century, but even in this our long-lived forerunner would have had his bellyful of change and disturbance: the dissolution of the monasteries and the breach with Rome, the Marian persecutions, the great risings in the West and North, and the terrors of the Armada and the long "cold war" preceding it, as well as a full share of pestilences. So would his 17th-century successor, who would have begun his life with the shock of the Gunpowder Plot and the news of the Massacre of Bartholomew, have endured the great and prolonged clash between Crown and Parliament, suffered the even longer horrors and austerities of

the Civil War and Interregnum, have soon forgotten the relief of the Restoration in the cruel anxieties of the Great Plague, the Fire of London and the Dutch Wars, and experienced in old age the panic of the Popish Plot, the Revolution of 1688 and the first of the long series of wars against France. The man who was born in 1700 and lived till 1800 would have spent half his life with Britain in a state of war against her nearest, and then giant, neighbour, France; at fifteen would have witnessed the armed attempt to set the Old Pretender on the throne and at forty-five the Young Pretender, and would later have experienced the American and French Revolutions. He would have died with the fate of his country and home almost as much in the balance as it was in 1940. And as we are descended, all of us, from men and women who experienced all these, and many more,

terrible shocks in their lifetimes, we ought not, I suppose, to grumble at those that have fluttered our own. It is a privilege, as we are constantly being reminded, to live in an age when history is being made. It always is. It is not only a privilege but an unavoidable necessity!

Indeed, perhaps the most remarkable of man's traits is the assurance with which he accepts his disquieting circumstances. How seldom, really, do we reflect on the precarious nature of our tenure of security, property and life itself, and how little of our time is spent, in reality, in worrying about the likelihood, indeed, the certainty—since we must all perish sooner or later—of ultimate disaster. It will turn up in the end, as it always does, and in the meantime, like our forbears, we can make ourselves very happy.

Many of our readers have, from time to time, enquired if it is possible to obtain Dr. Arthur Bryant's articles which appear on "Our Note Book" page, in book form. A number of these essays are included in his recently-published book, "Historian's Holiday" (Collins; 21s.), and enable readers to renew acquaintance with the cat *Sammy*, *Mongy* the mongoose and his dog *Jimmy*. Dr. Bryant's skill in evoking the past is evident in one of the longer essays, describing an imaginary journey in James II.'s England, which was originally broadcast, and his essay, "On Discovering the Past was Real," reveals how his interest was quickened by a chance examination of the Shakerley papers. From that initial examination flowered the enthusiasm and research which have given us the notable volumes on Samuel Pepys and on the early years of the nineteenth century.



THE ALLIED POWERS SUPREME COMMANDER IN EUROPE AT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING IN ROME: GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, WHO ADDRESSED TWO MEETINGS ON NOVEMBER 26.

General Eisenhower on November 26 delivered two addresses at the North Atlantic Council Meeting in Rome. In the morning he spoke to the Military Committee of N.A.T.O. and emphasised the importance of a European Army. He said: "Western European Defence could never be anything but a stalemate established on the Rhine unless something was done to consolidate a European Army." In the afternoon he delivered an important speech to the North Atlantic Council, taking as his text a passage from St. Luke, XI: "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace." He said that only misinterpretation could discern in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation any aggressive intentions, and he had no interest in serving anywhere in any organisation except for the preservation of peace. In our photograph Mr. Charles Spofford is seated to the left of General Eisenhower, with Mr. Averell Harriman to the left of him. To the right of the General are Mr. Lester Pearson, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Van Zeeland, the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Seated, back to camera from extreme right to left, are Mr. Snyder, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Dean Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr. Robert Lovett, U.S. Secretary of Defence.

AN ALL-MEN OPERA SET ON BOARD SHIP: BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S "BILLY BUDD"



MR. RATCLIFFE (MICHAEL LANGDON), MR. REDBURN (HERVEY ALAN), MR. FLINT (GERAINT EVANS; SEATED); CLAGGART (FREDERICK DALBERG) AND BILLY (THEODORE UPPMAN, L. TO R.).



"FAREWELL, RIGHTS O' MAN, FAREWELL, OLD RIGHTS O' MAN!": BILLY BUDD (THEODORE UPPMAN) SINGS GOOD-BYE TO THE MERCHANT SHIP FROM WHICH HE WAS PRESSED FOR THE NAVY.



THE INDOMITABLE READY FOR BATTLE; THE MEN ARE AT ACTION STATIONS, THE POWDER-MONKEYS IN FRONT; CAPTAIN VERE (PETER PEARS) IS THIRD FROM LEFT ON QUARTER-DECK.



THE BERTH-DECK: DANSKER (INIA TE WIATA; SEATED) WARNS BILLY BUDD (THEODORE UPPMAN) THAT THE EVIL MASTER-AT-ARMS CLAGGART IS DOWN ON HIM AND MEANS TO DESTROY HIM



REPRESENTING THE FORCES OF EVIL AND OF GOOD RESPECTIVELY: CLAGGART (FREDERICK DALBERG) AND BILLY BUDD (THEODORE UPPMAN, THE YOUNG AMERICAN BARITONE).



A DAY OF THE GUN-DECK: BILLY BUDD (THEODORE UPPMAN), IN IRONS AND CONDEMNED TO BE HANGED AT THE YARD-ARM, WITH DANSKER (INIA TE WIATA).

"Billy Budd," Mr. Benjamin Britten's all-men opera, was produced at Covent Garden on December 1, conducted by the composer. The first performance of this major work by one of the most distinguished of contemporary composers was a musical occasion of the first importance, and the opera, admirably produced and performed, was enthusiastically received. It is being given again to-night, December 8, and on December 11, 15, 21 and 27. The libretto by E. Forster and Eric Crozier, after the Herman Melville story, deals with life in the Royal Navy

in 1797, during the French wars, shortly after the mutiny at the Nore. The scenes by John Piper representing the main deck, and quarter-deck, berth-deck and captain's cabin in H.M.S. *Indomitable* are remarkable, and when the curtain rose, a scene recalling a Rowlandson drawing was revealed. The story deals with the false accusation against Billy Budd by the evil Claggart. Billy, who stammers in emotional moments, cannot speak, strikes Claggart and accidentally kills him. A court-martial follows and Billy is found guilty and hanged.

ROYAL OCCASIONS AND OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE: A PICTORIAL RECORD OF CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.



THE FIRST GERMAN CHANCELLOR TO VISIT BRITAIN FOR TWENTY YEARS: DR. ADENAUER AT NORTHOLT AIRPORT, WHERE HE ARRIVED 2½ HOURS LATE.

Dr. Adenauer, the Federal German Chancellor and Foreign Minister, arrived by air at Northolt Airport on December 3 for a five-day official visit, during which it was arranged that he should combine sightseeing in London and Oxford with political discussions. It was also announced that he would be received by the King on December 7. He arrived late at Northolt, having been delayed by engine trouble.



THE BATTLESHIP IN WHICH THE KING, ACCOMPANIED BY THE QUEEN, HOPES TO MAKE A CRUISE IN THE SPRING: H.M.S. VANGUARD.

The King, accompanied by the Queen, hopes to make a cruise in *Vanguard* during the spring. *Vanguard* (42,500 tons) was used for the 1947 Royal tour to South Africa. Since November 1949, she has been Training-ship at Portland, but she temporarily wore the flag of the Commander-in-Chief Home Fleet for the 1950 autumn cruise.



AT THE OPENING OF THE STEPHENSON BUILDING, THE NEW ENGINEERING SECTION OF KING'S COLLEGE: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH ADDRESSING THE ASSEMBLY.

On November 28 H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh opened the Stephenson Building, the new engineering section of King's College, in the University of Durham. His Royal Highness was received by Lord Allendale, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, at Newcastle Central Station. Before the ceremony the Vice-Chancellor of Durham University conferred the honorary degree of D.C.L. on his Royal Highness.



LORD SALISBURY (RIGHT) ACKNOWLEDGING WITH LIFTED "SQUARE" HIS INSTALLATION AS THE NEW CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL ON NOVEMBER 28.

For nearly fifty years the Chancellorship of the University of Liverpool has been held by a member of the Stanley family. On November 28, however, it passed to the Cecils, when Lord Salisbury, the Lord Privy Seal, was installed. Before his installation he was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and after his installation conferred similar doctorates on Lord David Cecil, M. Massigli, the French Ambassador, Lord Swinton and Dr. G. M. Trevelyan.



HIS MAJESTY'S WONDERFUL RECOVERY: THE KING LEAVING BUCKINGHAM PALACE FOR ROYAL LODGE, WITH THE QUEEN, ON NOVEMBER 30.

The King continues to make progress after his operation and is well on the way to recovery. On November 30 he drove with the Queen from Buckingham Palace to Windsor. During the week-end at Royal Lodge he took two walks in the grounds and was expected to return to London on December 3.

NEWS FROM ABROAD AND A FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY: A SURVEY OF EVENTS.



"A PRIVATE AND INFORMATIVE MEETING" OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR POWERS IN PARIS ON DEC. 1 IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSALS ON ARMS LIMITATION: (FROM L. TO R.) MR. SELWYN LLOYD (GREAT BRITAIN); M. JULES MOCH (FRANCE); SEÑOR NERVO (MEXICO) WHO PRESIDED; MR. VYSHINSKY (U.S.S.R.); DR. PHILIP JESSUP (U.S.A.).

On November 30 Mr. Vyshinsky, the Russian Foreign Minister, concluded a speech full of invective against the Western Powers with the announcement that Russia agreed to Four-Power discussions under the President of the U.N. Assembly, with a view to formulating a common draft from the

disarmament proposals put forward by the Western Powers and the U.S.S.R. Later the sub-committee was instructed to consider the proposals and "any new proposals made by its members," and report to the Political Committee by December 10.



THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST WIRELESS SIGNAL ACROSS THE ATLANTIC: MARCONI WITH HIS INSTRUMENTS AT SIGNAL HILL, NEWFOUNDLAND, ON DECEMBER 12, 1901. On December 12 Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd. are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the first spanning of the Atlantic Ocean by wireless. On that day in 1901 the letter "S" was transmitted in the Morse code from a station set up at Poldhu, in Cornwall, and was received by Marconi at a station set up on Signal Hill, St. Johns, Newfoundland.



INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR AT THE OPENING OF THE SUPREME COURT AT SUVA: THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF FIJI, MR. J. H. VAUGHAN, K.C.

Our photograph shows the Chief Justice of Fiji, Mr. J. H. Vaughan, K.C., inspecting the guard of honour of Fijian police at the opening of the Supreme Court at Suva recently. He is seen with the guard commander, Inspector S. Boss. It will be remembered that the Council of Chiefs have offered to raise an infantry battalion for service in Malaya.



LAYING A WREATH ON THE SPOT WHERE MANY BELGIAN PATRIOTS MET THEIR DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE GESTAPO: KING BAUDOUIN OF THE BELGIANS.

On November 28 King Baudouin of the Belgians visited Fort Breendonck, near Antwerp, where many Belgian patriots were tortured and executed by the Gestapo during the war. His Majesty laid a wreath at the foot of the stakes to which the Germans tied their victims before they were shot by a firing squad.



SEEING THE STATE OF AFFAIRS FOR HIMSELF: MR. OLIVER LYTTETTON (RIGHT), THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, ON HIS ARRIVAL BY AIR AT SINGAPORE ON NOVEMBER 29.

Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary, is visiting Malaya to see the state of the country for himself. He is seen on arrival at Singapore, where he was met by (l. to r.) Sir Franklin Gimson, Governor of Singapore; Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, Commissioner-General for South-East Asia; Sir Ralph Hone, Governor of North Borneo; and Mr. A. Abell, Governor of Sarawak.

THE DISSOLUTION HONOURS; AND SOME PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC EYE.



LORD JOWITT.
Created an Earl. He is sixty-six and was Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, 1945-51. Among offices he has held are Solicitor-General, 1940-42; Paymaster-General, 1942; Minister without Portfolio, 1942-44; and Minister of National Insurance, 1944-45.



MR. DAVID KIRKWOOD.
Created a Baron. He is seventy-nine and was Socialist M.P. for East Dunbartonshire, 1950-51, and for Dunbarton Burghs, 1922-50. He is a veteran Clydeside trade unionist, and a typical Scottish engineer. He did not seek re-election in October.



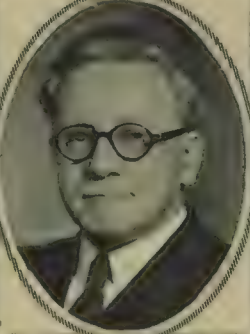
MR. GEORGE MATHERS.
Created a Baron. He is sixty-five and was Treasurer of his Majesty's Household, 1945-46; and Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1946-48 and 1951. He did not seek re-election as an M.P. in October.



MAJOR JAMES MILNER.
Created a Baron. He is sixty-two and was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, 1943-51. He has been Socialist M.P. for South-East Leeds since 1929. His nomination by the Socialists as Speaker was defeated.



MAJOR F. J. WISE.
Created a Baron. He is sixty-four and was Socialist M.P. for King's Lynn from 1945 until he was defeated at the recent election. He is a retired chartered surveyor and farmer. During World War II, he was a land officer on the Air Ministry staff.



MR. HERBERT MORRISON.
Appointed a Companion of Honour. He is sixty-three, and was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, March-October, 1951, and Lord President of the Council, 1945-51. He was Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security, 1940-45.



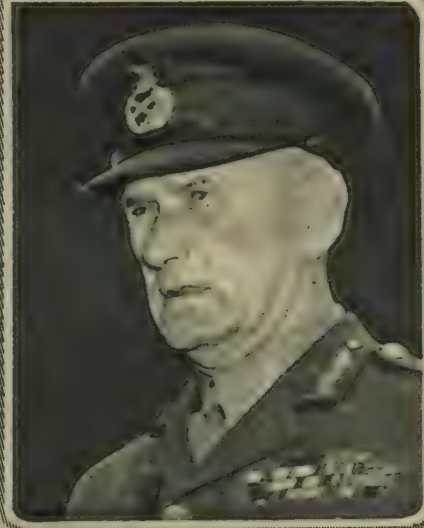
DR. W. F. L. HANNAY.
Designated a Knight Bachelor. He is forty-eight and has been Mr. Attlee's personal doctor for many years. He is married to Doris Leslie, the novelist, and his father was a cousin of Canon Hannay (George A. Birmingham), the well-known author.



COMPOSER OF THE ALL-MEN OPERA "BILLY BUDD," PRODUCED ON DEC. 1 AT COVENT GARDEN: MR. BENJAMIN BRITTEN.
"Billy Budd," an opera based on a story by Herman Melville, originally commissioned by the Arts Council for the Festival of Britain, had an enthusiastic reception at Covent Garden. Mr. Britten, born in 1913, is one of the most distinguished of contemporary British musicians. His works include the operas "Peter Grimes" (1944), "The Rape of Lucretia" (1946), and "Albert Herring" (1947).



ENGLAND V. AUSTRIA IN THE SOCCER INTERNATIONAL AT WEMBLEY: THE TEAMS, LED BY THEIR CAPTAINS (ENGLAND ON RIGHT), WALKING ON TO THE FIELD FOR THE START OF PLAY.
The long-awaited Soccer International between England and Austria proved an exciting game, and the great crowd of 100,000 at Wembley Stadium on November 28 was not disappointed. There was no scoring in the first half, but in the second half the lead changed hands twice before England finally held Austria to a draw, 2-2. Our photograph shows the two teams, with England on the right, led by their captain, Billy Wright (Wolves); and Austria on the left, led by their captain, L. Gernhardt (Rapid, Vienna).



THE C.-IN.-C., BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES IN JAPAN AND KOREA: LIEUT.-GENERAL W. BRIDGEFORD.
Appointed Commander-in-Chief, British Commonwealth Forces in Japan and Korea in succession to Lieut.-General Sir Horace Robertson, Lieut.-General W. Bridgeford, Australian Military Forces, served in both World Wars. He was awarded the M.C. in the 1914-18 war, and was mentioned in despatches and created a C.B. and C.B.E. in the 1939-45 war. He was born in 1894.



CAPTAIN OF OXFORD'S RUGBY XV. TO MEET CAMBRIDGE AT TWICKENHAM ON DEC. 11: GILES L. BULLARD.
Oxford's Rugby captain, Giles Bullard (Blundell's and Balliol) is playing for the second time at Twickenham. He took an Honours Degree in History this year. He is grandson of the famous Master of Balliol, A. Lionel Smith.



CAPTAIN OF CAMBRIDGE'S RUGBY XV. TO MEET OXFORD AT TWICKENHAM ON DEC. 11: JOHN M. JENKINS.
Cambridge's Rugby captain, John Jenkins (Oundle and Clare) represented Cambridge in 1949 and was picked last year but stood down owing to injury. He went to South Africa with the combined University side this summer.



THE KING OF NEPAL AND HIS MINISTERS: H.M. KING TRIBHUVANA (CENTRE), WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. M. P. KOIRALA (LEFT).
A new Nepalese Cabinet of twelve Ministers, under Mr. M. P. Koirala, President of the Nepalese Congress Party, was sworn in at Katmandu on November 16. It contains eight representatives of the Congress Party and four independents, two of whom are members of the former ruling family of Rana. All five Ranas, who were Ministers in the former Cabinet, have been dropped.



CAPTAIN OF OXFORD'S SOCCER XI. TO MEET CAMBRIDGE AT TOTTENHAM ON DEC. 8: STANLEY G. HERITAGE.
Oxford's Soccer captain, Stanley Heritage (Holloway Grammar School and Exeter), plays inside left in the XI. He is reading for an Honours Degree in Chemistry, and will be making his fourth appearance in the side.



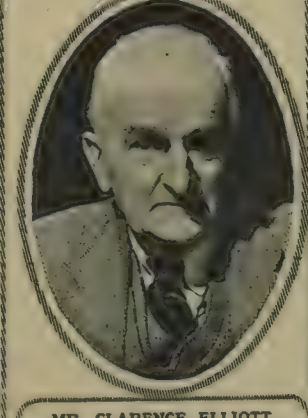
CAPTAIN OF CAMBRIDGE'S SOCCER XI. TO MEET OXFORD AT TOTTENHAM ON DEC. 8: PETER D. H. MAY.
Cambridge's Soccer captain, Peter May (Charterhouse and Pembroke), was the leading amateur cricketer of 1951. He captained Charterhouse at both cricket and soccer before going to Pembroke, where he won Blues in both games as a Freshman.



MR. RUDOLF SLANSKY.
On November 27, it was announced that Mr. Rudolf Slansky, Czechoslovakian Vice-Premier and, until early in September, General Secretary of the Czech Communist Party, had been arrested and imprisoned for espionage and subversive activities against the Government, and dismissed from all his official posts, including his seat in Parliament.



REV. F. O. GREEN-WILKINSON.
The Rev. Francis Oliver Green-Wilkinson, who was consecrated Bishop of Northern Rhodesia at Westminster Abbey on November 30, only took orders in 1947, and until June, when he went to Pretoria, was a curate at St. Mary's, Southampton. He won the M.C. in North Africa, and took his M.A. in 1946.



MR. CLARENCE ELLIOTT.
Awarded the V.M.H. (Victoria Medal of Honour in Horticulture) on December 4, Mr. Elliott has been writing the weekly "In an English Garden" in *The Illustrated London News* since September 10, 1949. The V.M.H., this country's premier horticultural award, was instituted in 1897 and is limited to sixty-three living holders.



H.E. SEÑOR DR. DON PEDRO G. DE VILAIRE.
Presented his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Paraguay to the Queen and Princess Margaret at Buckingham Palace on November 15. He is a married man and his wife and children have come to London with him.



BRITAIN'S FIRST OPERATIONAL DELTA AIRCRAFT: THE GLOSTER GA5, "FLYING TRIANGLE": A LONG-RANGE, DAY OR NIGHT, ALL-WEATHER FIGHTER, WITH TWO SAPPHIRE JETS.

On November 30, Britain's first operational delta aircraft was taken off the security list, although her speed, range, armament and radar gear remain secret. This aircraft, the Gloster GA5, built by the Hawker Siddeley group, was designed by Mr. Richard Walker under

(Continued opposite.)

Continued.] the direction of Mr. George Carter, who designed the original Gloster E.28/39, the world's first successful jet aircraft. The GA 5 is powered by two Armstrong Siddeley Sapphires of the type fitted in the experimental Gloster Meteor, which set up four world speed-to-altitude records.



SOLD FOR THE RECORD PRICE OF £1900: LORD GLENTANAR'S UNUSUALLY LARGE GEORGE I. SILVER TEAPOT.

At Christie's on December 28, Lord Glentinar's unusually fine and large (31 ozs. 1 dwt.) George I. teapot was sold for the record price of £1900 to Messrs. Chrichton. The highest previous London price for a silver teapot was £900, paid in December, 1947.



THE DACRE TROPHY: PRESENTED FOR ANNUAL COMPETITION IN THE R.A.F. IN MEMORY OF THE LATE F/O. K. DACRE, D.F.C. This trophy (by Mr. A. E. Sean Crampton, G.M., M.C.) has been presented by Air Commodore and Mrs. G. B. Dacre in memory of their son who was killed in action over Germany in 1943. It will be awarded annually to the regular squadron of Fighter Command showing the greatest proficiency in weapon-training.



RECENTLY FOUND IN SOMERSET: AN ANGLO-SAXON BLUE GLASS VESSEL (A.D. 700-800), IN ALMOST PERFECT CONDITION. During recent excavations of a well on the site of a Roman temple at Pagans' Hill, Chew Stoke, North Somerset, a number of interesting finds were made, the most striking of which is the blue glass Anglo-Saxon drinking-vessel shown above. It is considered the finest object of its period found in Somerset since the discovery of the Alfred Jewel.



(LEFT.) THE NEW TUDOR GARDEN AT HAMPTON COURT, RECONSTRUCTED FROM A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY PICTURE. A new garden, based on a drawing of one that stood on the same site in the seventeenth century, has been made at Hampton Court, next to King Henry VIII's Pond Garden and overlooked by the windows of the three rooms occupied by Wolsey during his last weeks. An attempt to use only shrubs and flowers grown in the original will be made.

(RIGHT.) WITH OVER 200 FEATHERS IN HIS HAT: MR. CHURCHILL'S SEVENTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY CAKE, WITH EACH FEATHER MARKING A GREAT OCCASION. At Mr. Churchill's seventy-seventh birthday dinner party at No. 10, a cake in the form of his celebrated square bowler bore over 200 feathers to indicate landmarks in his career. The largest bore Mrs. Churchill's name, "Clementine."



LETTERS FROM A PRIVATE IN WELLINGTON'S ARMY.

"THE LETTERS OF PRIVATE WHEELER 1809-1828"; Edited and with a foreword by B. H. LIDDELL HART.*

TO describe this remarkable and indeed enchanting book (it really isn't mere laziness on my part) I cannot do better than quote the first sentences of Captain Liddell Hart's introduction: "Most of the eye-witness accounts of the 'Great War' against Napoleon were written long after the events they describe. Although quite a number were by men who served in the ranks, or were compiled from their tales, the more interesting and valuable narratives came mainly from officers. The famous *Recollections of Private Harris* are an exception—but his story was recorded many years later by a half-pay officer turned journalist who discovered him, recognised the interest of his reminiscences, and set them down in a somewhat polished-up style. They covered only the opening phase of the Peninsular War—the ill-fated Corunna campaign—and the abortive Walcheren expedition.

"A greater discovery has come more than a century later in the letters of Private William Wheeler of the 51st—now the 1st Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. They start with the Walcheren expedition, cover the main part of the Peninsular War, and then give his impressions of the Waterloo campaign. I know of no contemporary story by a fighting soldier that equals this in atmosphere and interest. The later letters vividly depict the conditions of overseas garrison service after the 'Great War,' and provide some side-lights on the Greek War of Independence."

I think that "The Letters of Sergeant Wheeler" might have been a more indicative title: a third of the book deals with the post-Waterloo period and the author, a highly-respected N.C.O. with a wife and children, ended his military career as regimental schoolmaster in the Ionian Islands. But, even as a private, he wrote letters, which by virtue both of quality and content, throw a useful light on the rank-and-file who served under Wellington. The Duke, in a moment of exasperation at the recurrent drunkenness of his veterans in a country covered with barrels of wine, did once describe them as "scum," and despairingly remarked that nobody could command a British Army. He was, on occasion, obliged to hang some of his men for drunken excesses during a sack. But too much emphasis has been laid on these facts. Private Wheeler was quite as convinced that Wellington had the best-behaved Army in existence as he was that the Army had the finest Commander in existence. And, had that army been the rabble it is sometimes paradoxically presumed to have been, Private Wheeler would never have volunteered to join it and certainly wouldn't have remained in it a day longer than he had to. He loved the Army, he loved his regiment, he respected and admired most of his officers (though he could be caustic or comic about the faults of some of them), and he was firmly convinced of the rightness of his country's cause, regretting only that such great

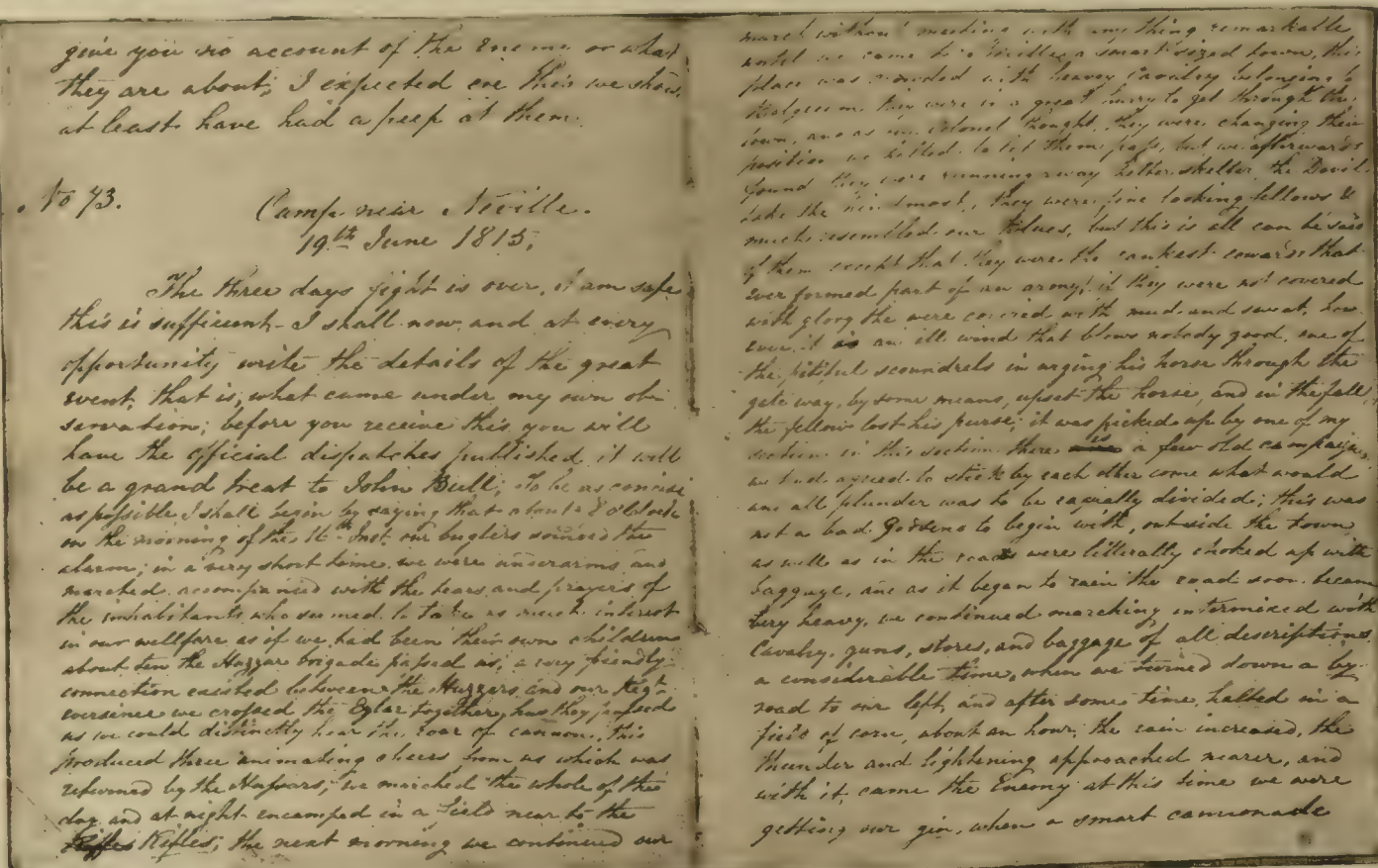
An Appreciation by SIR JOHN SQUIRE.

genius for military and civil affairs should have been wasted on such a villain as Napoleon. And, although nothing is here disclosed about his formal education, it is impossible to regard him as anything but an educated man. There was even a man of letters in him. Perhaps he had an inkling of that when he so carefully composed his letters home and, on retirement, copied them out in a fair hand and bound them together—to be brought to light at last by a descendant.

Here are the series of marches, counter-marches, assaults, retreats, sieges and pitched battles which have so often been described; though related with such graphic and significant detail that historians like Fortescue and Oman would certainly have drawn freely on Wheeler had they known of his existence. But the man, as here revealed, is more interesting than the familiar campaigns. He had an eye for character, episode and landscape; he recorded odd colonels and Levantines with the spicy humour of Sterne, whom

into Madrid, for example. But his character may better be illustrated by a simpler statement from France, in the November of the Waterloo year: "Verriers is the head quarters of the brigade. Here we are stationed, it is about eight miles from Paris. I am quartered on an old couple who are far advanced in years, they have seen better days, seventy winters have passed over their heads and now their life is one continued round of toil and sorrow. Both their united efforts are scarce sufficient to keep the wolf from the door, in their younger years they were in possession of a farm. Their family consisted of six sons and one daughter, the six young men have been killed or perished in the wars, one in Italy, one in Spain, three, on the retreat from Moscow and the last and youngest fell at Waterloo. Their daughter fell a victim to her pretended lover and shortly after died of a broken heart. When I entered the house with my billet I found the old couple plunged in grief. I soon learned the cause of their trouble. The Russians had been quartered on them for some time, they

had marched the day before our arrival to make room for us. Last night the poor old couple had for the first time these three months slept in their bed, but now we had arrived they would again be obliged to sleep on straw. I desired the old man to fetch me a bundle of clean straw, this I shook down in one corner, mine and my comrade's blankets and watch-coats made us a very comfortable bed. I then told the old man that we should sleep there, that we were British soldiers, and rather than deprive two such old people



WRITTEN TO HIS FAMILY AFTER THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO: A LETTER IN PRIVATE WHEELER'S HANDWRITING DESCRIBING THE "THREE DAYS FIGHT." IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LETTERS WHICH PRIVATE WHEELER WROTE HOME TO HIS FAMILY IN BATH DURING HIS NINETEEN YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE ARMY, FROM 1809-1828, WERE INTENDED TO BE PUBLISHED. WHEN HE RETURNED HOME HE FOUND HIS LETTERS CAREFULLY PRESERVED AND HE COPIED THEM INTO A LEATHER-BOUND BOOK WHICH, AFTER HAVING BEEN CAREFULLY PRESERVED IN HIS FAMILY EVER SINCE, HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED THROUGH THE COURTESY OF HIS OWN GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER.

(Reproduced from the book: "The Letters of Private Wheeler," by courtesy of the publisher, Michael Joseph.)

he mentions; at one page I found myself exclaiming: "Why, this is just like Asgarth!" and a few pages later found him actually remarking about another grim Hogarthian, indeed Goyaesque, scene, that "it would require the genius of Hogarth to perform the task" of description. When he reached the gardens of the Escorial, his chief delight was finding a library in a summer-house, and in it the "New Bath Guide," by Christopher Anstey. Not Christopher Anstey to him, but "Councillor Anstey of Marlboro' Buildings." For his home was in Bath. He never forgot, in describing places to his family, to make them vivid by references to Bath. Of a river he said: "Each part is about the breadth of the Avon." Of a mountain, that it was "something similar to Beechen Cliff." Of a column of enemy, that they occupied "about as much ground as the houses in Queen's Square." The first and closest friend he made in the regiment was the only other man who came from Bath: a fact that should be borne in mind by the sort of man, devoid of local affections, who thinks that it doesn't matter to a private with whom he is grouped and numbered. Many fine descriptions, as clear as paintings, could be quoted from Wheeler: his account of the entry

of the only comfort they could enjoy, we would rather sleep on the bare boards." "That we were British soldiers": it is pleasant to hear that phrase sounding across the generations.

When fighting was over for him, his letters were just as fascinating and lively. There were a few stirring events during his Ionian sojourn. Cochrane (then commanding the Greek Navy) came into harbour: "You know his Lordship does not belong to the family of Dolittles, and so has the Mussulmen found out to their cost." Navarino was fought and rejoiced over. And before that: "Sailing out of the harbour of Corfu we passed the beautiful Gun brig, the property of the late Lord Byron, his Lordship's remains are on board on its way to England. Lord B— died a short time since at Missilonghi, he seems to have devoted both his purse and talents to the Greek cause. His poems have inspired the patriotic Greeks with such a love of liberty and thirst for revenge that they will never again submit to bondage, the struggle might yet last sometime but in the end the Greek must be successful. I said to a Greek one day: 'Byron is dead.' He replied, 'No, never,' then striking his left breast at the same moment his soul rushed into his eyes, 'he will always live here and in the hearts of my country men.'"

That is still true.

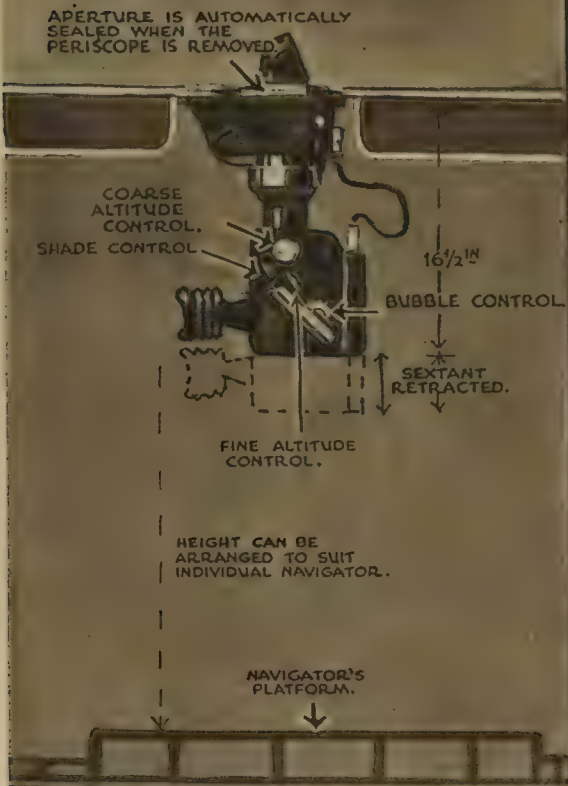
Novels are reviewed by K. John, and other books by E. D. O'Brien, on page 956 of this issue.

"AN IDEAL GIFT"

THE problems of Christmas shopping are now urgent. Those who find it difficult to select the ideal gift will find the answer in a year's subscription to *The Illustrated London News*. Orders for subscriptions for *The Illustrated London News* to be sent overseas may be handed to any good-class newsagent or bookstall or sent direct to The Subscription Department, "The Illustrated London News," Ingram House, 195-198 Strand, London, W.C.2, and should include the name and address of the person to whom the copies are to be sent and the price of the subscription. Canada, £5 14s.; elsewhere abroad, £5 18s. 6d. (To include the Christmas Number.)

* "The Letters of Private Wheeler, 1809-1828." Edited and with a Foreword by Captain B. H. Liddell Hart. With a 'Frontispiece. (Michael Joseph; 18s.)

PERISCOPIC SEXTANT IN POSITION.



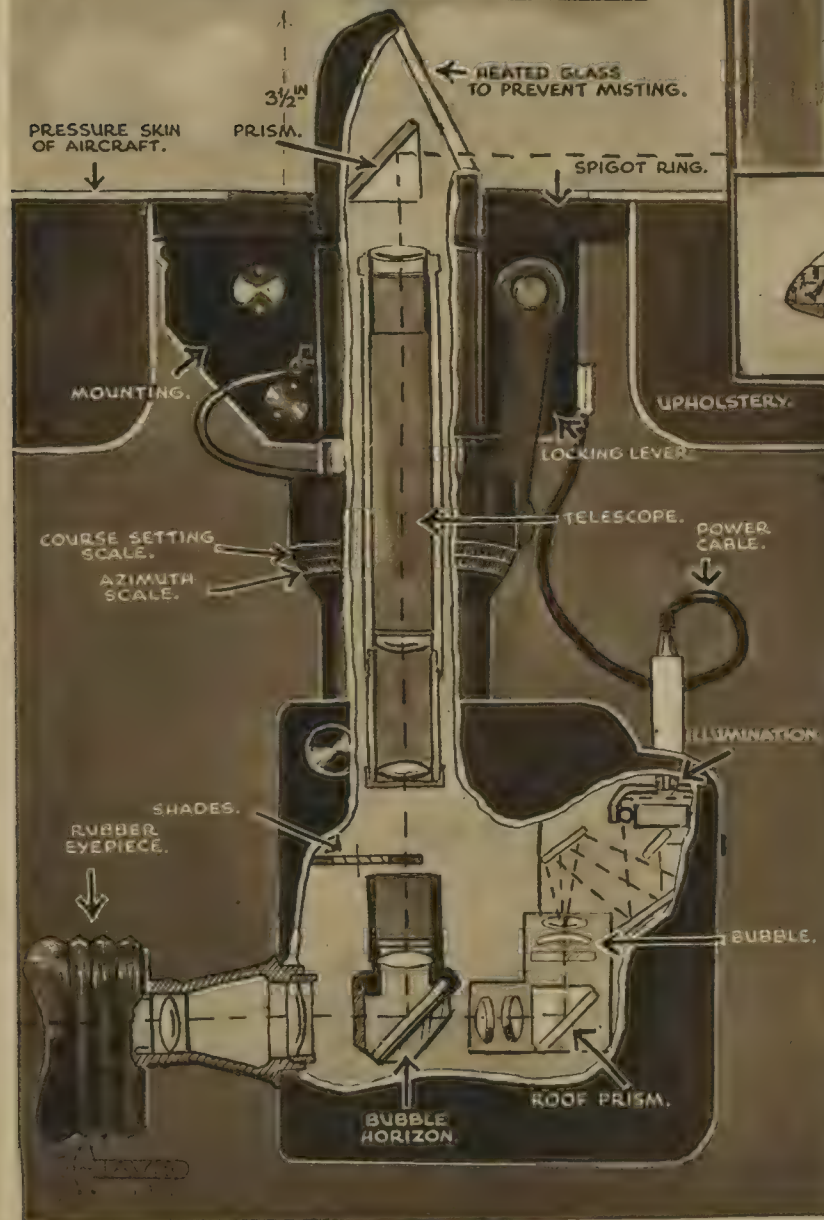
THE ADVENT OF PRESSURISED AIRCRAFT HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TO RE-DESIGN THE CONVENTIONAL AIR-SEXTANT AND TO FIND A MEANS OF DISPENSING WITH THE ASTRODOME WHICH CAN NO LONGER BE EMPLOYED OWING TO NEW AIRFRAME REQUIREMENTS. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED BY INTRODUCING A PERISCOPIC SEXTANT.

THE PERISCOPIC SEXTANT IN USE IN A "HERMES" AIRLINER.



SEXTANT'S POSITION IN AN AIRLINER.

DIAGRAMMATIC SECTION OF PERISCOPIC SEXTANT.



WHEN NOT IN USE THE SEXTANT CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE MOUNTING AND PACKED IN ITS CASE.

FRONT VIEW OF PERISCOPIC SEXTANT WITH AUTOMATICALLY SELF-SEALING MOUNTING.



A NEW NAVIGATIONAL DEVICE FOR PRESSURISED AIRCRAFT: THE PERISCOPIC SEXTANT WHICH REPLACES THE ASTRODOME.

The advent of pressurised aircraft and the constant effort to increase the efficiency of aircraft construction and shape to reduce drag has led to the disappearance of the astrodome—the "bubble" window on top of the fuselage—through which the navigator made his observations. The astrodome was a point of weakness in the skin of a pressurised aircraft, and as it projected from the fuselage it interfered with the streamlining of the aircraft. It has therefore become necessary

to re-design the conventional air sextant completely and it is now periscopic, with the index mirror or prism protruding through the airframe into outer air. This periscopic sextant can be raised or lowered electrically and slides through a special hatch in the fuselage which is sealed against the outer atmosphere. The new sextant is being fitted in the latest jet bombers and in some types of airliners and on this page our Artist shows how it is fitted and operated.

DRAWN BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, G. H. DAVIS, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MESSRS. KELVIN AND HUGHES (AVIATION) LTD.

THE EVEREST EXPEDITION: VIEWS OF THE WEST AND SOUTH APPROACHES.



"EACH PEAK IN TURN WAS FRAMED IN SHIFTING MIST, ITS TRACERY OF ICE GLOWING IN DEEP RELIEF":
A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE HONGU BASIN (CHAMPLONG PEAK) FROM A PASS CROSSED ON OCTOBER 14.



A LAND OF DARK PEAKS, DEEP VALLEYS AND ETERNAL SNOWS: THE HONGU BASIN SEEN PANORAMICALLY
BY THE RECONNAISSANCE PARTY FROM A COL ON THE HONGU-BARUN WATERSHED.



"BETWEEN THE PINNACLES AND CLIFFS WERE HUGE CREVASSES, SOME
LIGHTLY BRIDGED WITH ICE, SOME OPEN AND FATHOMLESS": A TYPICAL
ICE-CLIMB AMONG THE DEBRIS OF FALLEN ICE-CLIFFS.



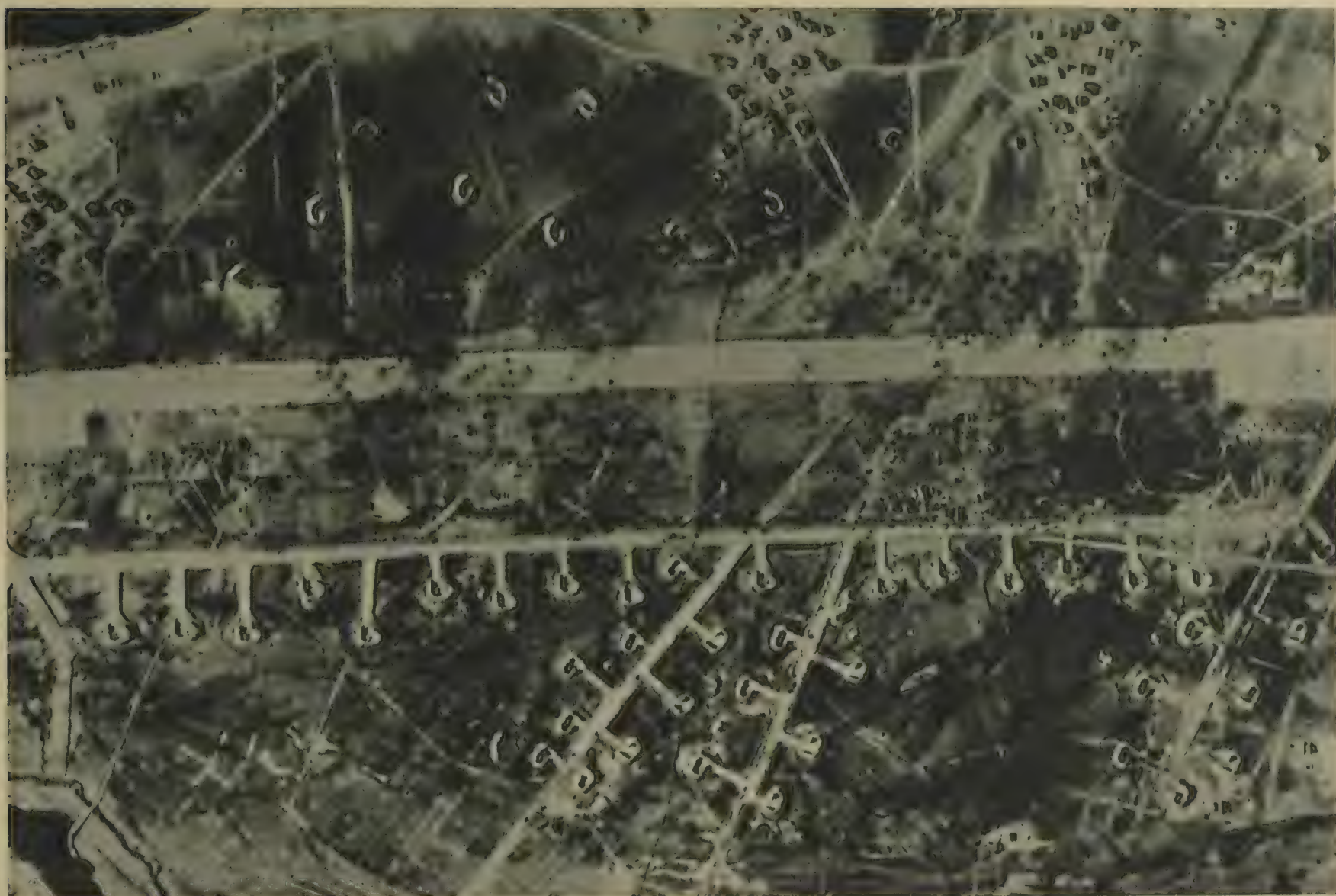
VIEWED FROM 19,500 FT. ON THE EASTERN WALL OF THE IMJA BASIN: THE NUPTSE-LHOTSE WALL BEHIND WHICH LIES THE HIGH GLACIER BASIN KNOWN AS THE WESTERN CWM

News has been received that members of Mr. Eric Shipton's Everest Reconnaissance party are, at the time of writing, on their way back to Delhi, having reluctantly had to abandon their explorations. In our issue of October 13 we showed photographs of the first stages of their attempt to investigate the possibility of reaching the summit of Everest from the Western Cwm up the hitherto unexplored south-western side. In our issue of November 10 we published further photographs and an initial study of the great ice-fall which was to prove a barrier to further explorations this year. Writing from Namche on November 2, Mr. Shipton says: "We have come to the reluctant conclusion that, at this time of year, conditions on the ice-fall are too dangerous to allow the passage of laden men . . . we had

hoped at least to spend a few days in the Cwm so as to get a clear idea of the route and distances involved and to pick the position of the high camps. This would have been invaluable in planning an attempt upon the mountain." Mr. Shipton describes their attempt to climb the ice-fall and the rapidly changing, and alarming, conditions they encountered. Eventually, unladen, the climbers reached the top of the wall but even worse obstacles lay beyond. Mr. Shipton says: "Our virtual defeat by the ice-fall, formidable though we knew it to be, has come as a surprise and a disappointment, particularly as we are now convinced that, in reasonable conditions, a practicable route exists from the Western Cwm to the summit of Mount Everest."

Photographs and excerpts from Mr. Eric Shipton's dispatch by arrangement with "The Times."

BEFORE AND AFTER: A COMMUNIST AIRFIELD NEUTRALISED IN KOREA.



SHOWING THE MAIN RUNWAY, A FLANKING TAXI-WAY AND SOME DISPERSAL BAYS OCCUPIED BY MIG-15 AIRCRAFT: AN AERIAL VIEW OF A COMMUNIST AIRFIELD AT UIJU AFTER B-29 BOMBERS HAD RAINED DOWN PROXIMITY-FUSED BOMBS AND 100-LB. DEMOLITION BOMBS ON THE INSTALLATIONS ON NOVEMBER 18 AND 22.



BEFORE THE BOMBING RAID: AN ENLARGED SECTION OF AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE AIRFIELD AT UIJU, SHOWING COMMUNIST AIRCRAFT IN THEIR DISPERSAL BAYS AND DRAWN UP ON THE APRON OF THE MAIN RUNWAY (TOP; LEFT).

On November 18 and 22 a large force of United Nations B-29 bombers raided a Communist airfield at Uiju in Northern Korea, where aerial reconnaissance had located a large number of MIG-15 fighters in dispersal bays leading from a flanking taxi-way, which in turn was connected with the main runway. As a direct hit by an impact-fused bomb would be necessary to damage the aircraft in these bays, a number of proximity-fused bombs were used against this target. It will be recalled that the proximity fuse was first used against V-1 flying bombs

in the war and proved remarkably successful. The fuse transmits radio waves which are reflected by the target and detonate the bomb or shell. By the means of this fuse shells or bombs can be made to burst at a pre-determined height above the ground with considerable effect on troops or aircraft in trenches or dispersal bays. The main runway was damaged with 100-lb. demolition bombs which detonate after entering the ground, causing great craters which require time and labour to fill up and repair. (*Radio photographs.*)

THE fact that little news has come of late from Indo-China must not be taken to mean that little is to be expected. On the contrary, a quieter spell, due to climatic causes in great part, is likely to be one in which the forces of both sides are framing new plans and reorganising their equipment and dispositions. No decision, military or political, has been reached. The issue remains doubtful. Extraneous events may still exercise an influence so powerful as to alter profoundly the results which the belligerents might obtain by their own unaided efforts. One such outside influence is that of Chinese intervention. That possibility takes a more prominent place now that hopes of a settlement in Korea have become slightly better. The question is being asked whether, should the war in Korea come to an end, Communist China would be disposed to send forces into Viet Nam in support of the rebels. It is sometimes loosely stated that she has done so already, but that allegation has never received confirmation from authoritative French sources. "Aid and comfort" have certainly been afforded to Viet Minh, but no more, so far; nor can China's future intentions in this respect be divined.

The relations between China and Viet Minh have been very similar to those formerly prevailing between the countries bordering on Greece and the Greek Communist rebels. I admit that great differences exist between Viet Minh and the Greek Communists. The former represents an established Government, exercising full control over wide regions and vast communities; the latter, despite its claims, never reached that status. Yet the organisation of aid is almost the same. All the base services of Viet Minh are established behind the Chinese frontier. Chinese equipment is provided with a generous hand. That for the regular Viet Minh troops in the north has been doubled this year; at the beginning, three divisions were equipped, now the number is six. Again, "indoctrination" is provided for. The Asiatic equivalent of the Russian commissar watches over the political purity of the troops, especially of the officers; but no Chinese troops have appeared. It is, so to speak, a Communist sealed pattern, and the aid is capable of expansion while still falling short of the intervention on an enormous scale which has occurred in Korea.

Speaking personally, I find the affairs of Indo-China absorbing. I pore over such information about them as comes my way. I should like to spend a month out there, but so far my present occupations have rendered this impossible. A seat at the dinner-table beside General de Lattre de Tassigny when he visited London in early October afforded me a fuller realisation than ever before of the task which he has undertaken, but, though we talked late into the night, the time was all too short. I concluded that if he could not solve the problems, military and civil, it was unlikely that anyone else would do so. He has been described as both egoist and egotist, and may deserve the epithets in some respects, and yet he sees himself as others see him. He knows, and says frankly, that his character is "difficult." He is, however, a man who gets things done, and this is due not only to his natural and acquired gifts but also to his intense enthusiasm. He possesses a strong belief in himself and can communicate it to others. In these days of great armies and vast fronts, where personal contact is limited, the inspiration

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD. THE LULL IN INDO-CHINA.

By CYRIL FALLS,

Chichele Professor of the History of War, Oxford.

counter-attacks regained lost ground; but in mid-January, the Viet Minh forces came on in still greater strength, thirty battalions assaulting in dense order. They sustained a crushing defeat. I will not try to recount all the events of the year, but will note that in March smaller bands struck on the Mekong, hundreds of miles south of the Delta, and that almost before the fighting there had died down there came the northern offensive in the region of Dong-trieu, which led to



A MAP OF INDO-CHINA, TO ILLUSTRATE CAPTAIN FALLS' ARTICLE ON THIS PAGE AND SHOWING THE TWO VITAL AREAS—THE RED RIVER DELTA AROUND HANOI IN THE NORTH AND THE RICH AREAS AROUND SAIGON IN THE SOUTH.

In a sudden decisive battle on November 10, French and Viet Nam troops of General de Lattre de Tassigny broke out of the Red River Delta and seized the important communications centre of Choben, on Route Coloniale 21. Infantry, artillery, paratroopers, commandos and aircraft were used in a two-column attack. Four days later, in the biggest parachute operation ever staged in Indo-China, Hoa-Binh, on Route Coloniale 12 (through which all Chinese supplies to southern Viet Nam have been passing), was also seized by French forces. Illustrations of the work done by naval forces in Indo-China appear on the facing page.

some of the stiffest fighting. During the visits of the High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief to Washington and London, Viet Minh carried out yet another offensive, which was likewise held. In the course of the year the French and Viet Nam forces have by no means confined themselves to the defensive and counter-offensive, but have conducted several well-planned and well-executed offensive enterprises.

The task is political and economic as well as military, the three elements being closely intertwined. Without political progress it is hopeless to look for military success; in fact, one may say that a political solution is the prerequisite of a military victory rather than the other way about. In other words, victory can be achieved only if the people as a whole desire it and strive for it. Expansion and improved armament of the Viet Nam forces can be useful only if they fight with determination in the belief that freedom lies ahead. Fumbling and perhaps selfishness marred early French efforts to establish a Government which the people would respect. I do not pretend to be well acquainted with the present state of affairs, but I am assured that a considerable improvement had been effected.

General de Lattre looks forward to a heightening of national pride and believes that it is above all in the young that this may be hoped for.

On the economic side it is of vital importance to restore the former prosperity of the country, ruined by Japanese occupation and subsequent civil war. Three years ago the export list of this once great exporting country had been reduced almost to a column of zeros. I have not seen recent figures, and they are probably far from impressive, in view of the huge areas which are controlled by Viet Minh. Yet I know enough to be sure that they are very much better than those of three years ago. There has certainly been a great rise in the export of rice, a matter of importance to the world to-day. Yet Indo-Chinese

economics wear also a different aspect. It is urgently necessary to deprive the armies of Viet Minh, which live on the country, of access to the main rice-producing regions. The battles in the Delta have been largely battles for rice. My impression is that the Viet Minh forces may have obtained this year rather more than has been admitted but decidedly less than they hoped for. It may well be more damaging to the rebels to keep them out of the paddy-fields than to inflict heavy loss upon them with the weapons of war.

One of the lessons to be drawn from the past year—a year in which the French and Viet Nam forces have been better equipped than ever before—is that strong, open attacks by those of Viet Minh ought to be welcome. The latter were always the stronger numerically, and in the autumn fighting of which I have spoken a whole division was thrown against some 1500 men. The second lesson is that when Viet Minh does not strive to be too "regular" but mixes guerrilla tactics with the conventional, it becomes most dangerous; its skill in evasion and dispersion and its speed of foot are then bewildering. The deduction to be made is that everything possible needs to be done to speed up the counteraction of the French and Viet Nam forces. Their intelligence service must be brought to the highest standard and they must be able to act upon it with great rapidity. General de Lattre made no secret of the fact that on several occasions when the fullest information about Viet Minh concentrations had been obtained and apparently promising schemes had been set in motion with all possible speed, the striking force found nothing to strike. The enemy had vanished. Such episodes are demoralising. The enemy does not go empty-handed. He takes with him his loot and perhaps also peasants for forcible enrolment in his ranks, to say nothing of what he burns or blows up.

Before General de Lattre reached the scene he had made plans for this state of affairs. He had decided to cut down the number of small posts, too weak to be mobile, and increase that of columns always ready at a few hours' notice and capable not only of moving fast but of hitting hard at the end of a forced march. At the same time, far from neglecting fortification, he would strengthen and modernise it in the most vital regions. These new measures were quickly adopted, and it is largely to them that he ascribes the successes he has attained. Then the Viet Nam forces have been not only increased but also shaken up, with good effect upon their tactics, their mobility, and their spirit. It was in pursuance of this policy that he transferred his only son, with long experience of the country, from the French armoured unit in which he had been serving, to the Viet Nam forces. The young man did not care to make the change, but quickly became enthusiastic about his new command. He was killed leading his troops into action. I believe that by this month of December the Viet Nam Army will have reached a strength of eight divisions, and that it is hoped to increase it to half as much again. I need not add that these divisions are not armed on a European pattern; that is neither necessary nor desirable. The most mobile of all troops are paratroopers, and the General desired to increase not only their strength but the size of the force to be carried in one lift, so that it could hit hard as soon as it landed.

The favourable omens are not confined to the check suffered by Viet Minh. Prominent among them is the remarkable decrease in French and Viet Nam

battle casualties in a year of heavy fighting. Next must come the loyalty of the Viet Nam Army, of which General de Lattre is firmly convinced. The arrival of American arms and equipment is a third. We can say without fear of contradiction that the year 1951 is ending with Viet Minh on the downward grade. These are great and promising results. Yet it must not be forgotten that the Delta is still an island in a Viet Minh sea, that Viet Minh is still relatively strong and active even in Cambodia and Cochinchina, that direct Chinese intervention is still possible, and that without it Viet Minh may have cards up its sleeve. The campaign might even now take an unwelcome turn. Supposing that this does not occur, it will still require an immense and prolonged effort to set Viet Nam on its feet as a strong, stable and respected administration ruling a pacified and generally contented country. A determined effort is being made to achieve this. And critics of "colonialism" may be asked to bear in mind the fact that this effort is largely based upon General de Lattre's appeal to the people themselves.



"HE IS, HOWEVER, A MAN WHO GETS THINGS DONE, AND THIS IS DUE NOT ONLY TO HIS NATURAL AND ACQUIRED GIFTS BUT ALSO TO HIS INTENSE ENTHUSIASM": GENERAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY, WHO WAS APPOINTED, IN DECEMBER 1950, HIGH COMMISSIONER AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDO-CHINA.



"THE VIET NAM FORCES HAVE BEEN NOT ONLY INCREASED BUT ALSO SHAKEN UP, WITH GOOD EFFECT UPON THEIR TACTICS, THEIR MOBILITY, AND THEIR SPIRIT": INFANTRYMEN OF THE 1ST VIET NAM BATTALION RESTING DURING THEIR FORCED MARCH IN THE RECENT CHOBEN OPERATION.

of the commander cannot penetrate to the troops as freely as in the days of Napoleon and Wellington, or even those of Robert E. Lee. Few can now deeply impress their personality upon their armies. Yet this can still be done, as Allenby and Montgomery, Ridgway and de Lattre have shown.

When General de Lattre arrived he found an unhappy situation. The evacuation of Hanoi had been ordered; in fact, French inhabitants had been asked to put forward their demands for transport. Its loss would have been serious enough on the material side, but morally it would have been a disaster. The evacuation was countermanded. Almost at once he had to meet a very heavy offensive in the Red River Delta. The first attacks were generally held and



CAMBODIAN NAVAL OPERATIONS SEEN FROM THE AIR: TWO FRENCH ASSAULT CRAFT (CENTRE) APPROACHING A BARRAGE ERECTED BY THE VIET MINH IN A CANAL IN CAMBODIA.

ALTHOUGH the military operations of the French and Viet Nam forces in northern Indo-China have been, especially recently, of a more spectacular nature, the activities of French naval units have been continuous and little publicised. Their task has been fourfold: the blockade of Communist supplies coming by sea from Hainan and the China coast; coastal operations and bombardment in support of land forces; naval air-arm operations; and the constant patrol and action in the innumerable waterways of the Mekong and Red River deltas. The *Borel* (of which we show a picture) was sunk by a Communist bazooka; the commander and his crew from the wreckage held off the attackers (who were armed with a mortar and machine-guns) throughout an afternoon, while two of the crew swam four miles to bring reinforcements. With their aid the craft was refloated, and within three days returned to its headquarters at Saigon.



THE FRENCH LAUNCH *BOREL*, SUNK BY A VIET MINH BAZOOKA. THE ENEMY WERE BEATEN OFF, HELP WAS SOUGHT, AND WITHIN THREE DAYS THE CRAFT WAS RAISED AND BACK AT SAIGON.

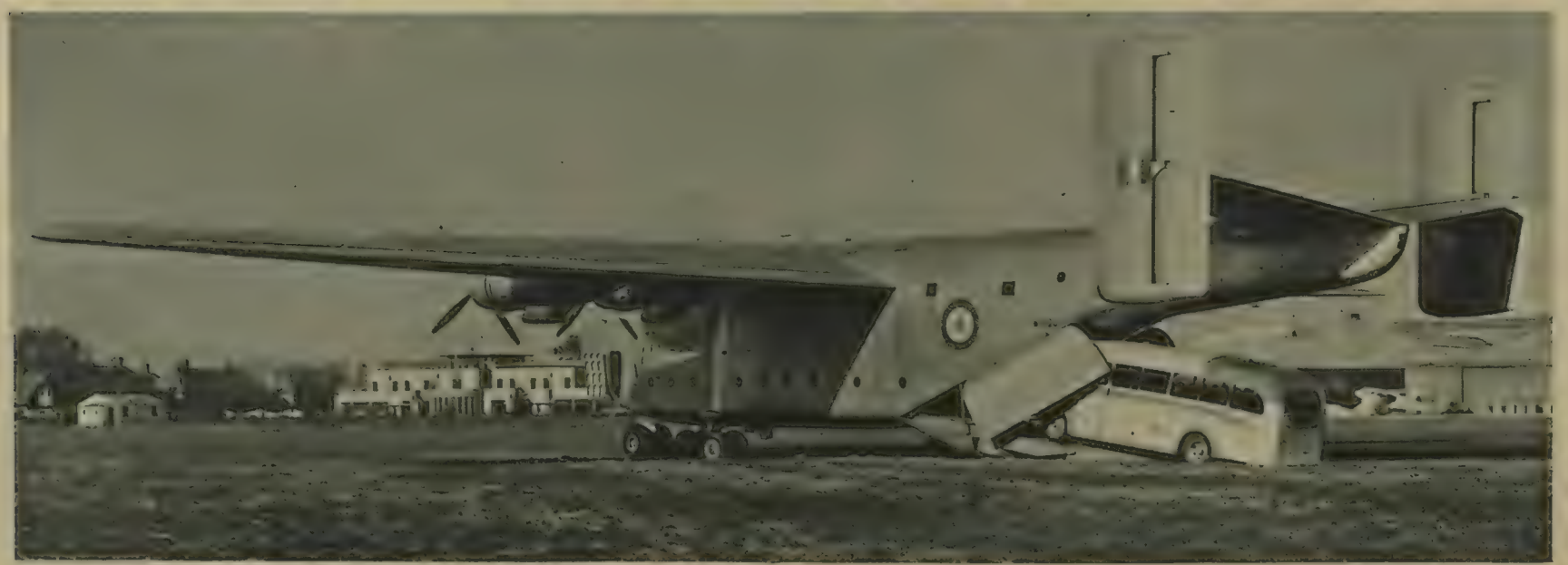


A FLOATING HEADQUARTERS IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SOUTHERN INDO-CHINA, WHICH ACTS AS A BASE FOR OPERATIONS IN THE INNUMERABLE CREEKS, WATERWAYS AND CANALS.



A COCHIN-CHINA CREEK, WITH A GROUP OF SHALLOW-DRAUGHT VESSELS SETTING OUT ON A FRENCH NAVAL OPERATION AGAINST A VIET MINH STRONGHOLD.

WITH THE FRENCH NAVY IN INDO-CHINA: FACETS OF A CEASELESS AND LITTLE-KNOWN CAMPAIGN.



SHOWING THE TWIN LOADING RAMP IN THE FOREGROUND: A VIEW (ABOVE) INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE UNIVERSAL FREIGHTER MAIN CARGO COMPARTMENT: AND (BELOW) A THIRTY-SEATER OMNIBUS DRIVING INTO THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH IS THE CIVIL VARIANT OF THE GAL. 60, BRITAIN'S LARGEST MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

MODERN MARVELS: AN AIRCRAFT SUFFICIENTLY SPACIOUS TO ACCOMMODATE A THIRTY-SEATER

The photographs on these pages illustrate the astonishing manner in which problems of transport of heavy and bulky vehicles have been solved by British genius. The Blackburn *Universal Freighter*, civil variant of the GAL. 60 military transport (which made its maiden flight from Brough Airfield in June, 1950), has proved exceedingly successful. This leviathan of the air, designed for the economic air haulage of bulky cargoes, is powered with Bristol *Centaurus* 171 engines (2940 h.p.).

Its main feature is, naturally, the freight compartment. This has a level floor 36 ft. long and 10 ft. wide, with no obstructions, and a maximum head-room of 10 ft. The floor is designed to carry any load within the capacity of the aircraft without spreader beams. The strength of the floor panels and supporting structure caters for a maximum unit distributed load of 325 lb./sq. ft. and a maximum axle load for vehicles of 9000 lb. The recently-announced Mark 2 version has a payload of



ON HER JOURNEY BY ROAD TO AVONMOUTH, EN ROUTE FOR BRISTOL, ON A 45-TON DIESEL TRACTOR WITH A CREW OF THREE: A NEW 10-TON FAIRMILE COAL BARGE, THE ONLY BARGE OF NON-CORROSIVE ALUMINIUM ALLOY TO BE BUILT COMPLETE AND LAUNCHED IN THIS COUNTRY.



ON THE THAMES AT WESTMINSTER: THE RECENTLY COMPLETED FAIRMILE ALUMINIUM ALLOY BARGE, OVERALL LENGTH 80 FT., WHICH IS BEING SHIPPED ON BOARD THE S.S. SNEATON FROM CARDIFF TO RIO DE JANEIRO FOR USE AS A COAL BARGE. SHE WILL CARRY A LOAD OF 150 TONS.

OMNIBUS, AND AN EIGHTY-FOOT COAL BARGE LIGHT ENOUGH TO TRAVEL BY TRACTOR.

18½ tons, and the total direct operating costs are as low as 11d. per ton mile. The Fairmile Construction Company has just completed the first non-corrosive aluminium alloy barge to be built complete and launched in this country—a 10-ton barge with an overall length of 80 ft., 20 ft. wide and 5 ft. 9 ins. high, capable of carrying a load of 150 tons. These barges are normally shipped in flat sub-assemblies to reduce freight charges, but that ordered by Messrs. Cory for use in Rio de Janeiro was

assembled for demonstration in this country, so presented a major transport problem when the time came to send her abroad. But the light weight of aluminium alloy as compared to steel made it possible for her to make the first lap of her journey on a 45-ton Diesel tractor by road from Dagenham to Avonmouth. The shortage of steel has resulted in a shortage of barges, but a suitable aluminium alloy has advantages over steel, one being its resistance to corrosion.

IN AN ENGLISH GARDEN.



A FEW weeks ago—September 8, to be precise—I wrote about the impudent and shameless way in which black-birds stole my entire crop of gooseberries and more than half my raspberries. They streamed down into the garden from a nearby belt of trees, and guzzled with almost

COSTLY MUSIC AGAIN.

By CLARENCE ELLIOTT.

But seriously. Several correspondents have written recommending what I feel very sure will prove the perfect protection for my small fruit in future—black-cotton entanglements. I have employed this method with perfect success in the past for saving crocuses—especially yellow crocuses—and polyanthus primroses from marauding sparrows.

I have used it, too, for protecting peas and other vegetables, and I cannot think why I was so slow-witted as not to apply it to my gooseberry bushes, for it is simple, inexpensive and a sure thing. To protect crocuses, polyanthus, or peas, a number of short sticks are pushed into the ground at intervals, and a system of strands of black cotton is stretched, criss-cross, from stick to stick in all directions. One twist round a stick, and so on to the next. The cotton must be an inch or two from the ground, at just such a height

fishing-rod, with the cotton spool fixed at the butt end, and a ring at the top through which the cotton passes. The "rod" is about 3 ft. long. But a correspondent has sent me

particulars, with drawing, for a home-made cotton-spreader. It is much like the advertised one. Just a length of broom-handle, with the cotton spool revolving on a stout screw fixed in the butt end and a ring at the far end. The screw can be screwed on or off when a fresh spool is needed. This simple instrument saves a great deal of time, and stooping. Tacking-cotton is recommended as cheapest, yet good enough. One great advantage of the black-cotton method of protecting crocuses, polyanthus, or any other dwarf flowers that take the sparrows' fancy, is that it is inconspicuous, especially if short lengths of stick, such as apple prunings, are used—with the bark on. It is curious how sparrows will attack and destroy crocuses and polyanthus, either or both, in some seasons and in some gardens, and not in others.

At the present time, however—in the last week of November—it is slugs rather than sparrows that are destroying my polyanthus primrose flowers, and it is clear that meta-bran will have to be sprinkled among the plants. In spring, these plants make a sumptuous and brilliant show in the garden, but their habit of producing a running fire of blossom throughout winter, except during the very severest weather, makes them exceptionally welcome and valuable. They do not make any effective show in the garden now, but gathered, even with quite short stems, and arranged as a flowered lawn, by tucking them into a mounded bed of moss in a shallow dish, they are delightful. Seldom have I seen my garden so dead-looking and flowerless at this time of year as it is just now. A few weeks ago I met a man one morning in the village, and in passing he remarked: "Well, the dahlias are all in mourning." An apt



A CLEARING IN MR. ELLIOTT'S "DWARF FOREST," WITH A MAPLE, A VIBURNUM, A YOUNG YEW AND A "SPINNEY" OF MAIDENHAIR TREES RANGED AROUND THE PRESIDING DEITY.

Regular readers of this page may recall Mr. Elliott's article (January 27, this year) on "Dwarfing a Giant." Here are some of his dwarfs. Of the marble god he writes: "I acquired it at the age of eleven, or thereabouts, from friends who were leaving the neighbourhood of my old home in Herts. They had dredged it out of a pond in their garden." Concerning the trees: "Reading from left to right are: a maple, from seed that I collected on the west side of the Rockies; a *Viburnum fragrans*, which has since flowered as a room plant; a young yew just starting life as a dwarfed giant; and a 'spinney' of ten maidenhair trees which I raised from seed in 1939." (Photographs by J. R. Jameson.)

frenzied gluttony. Nothing seemed to scare them, not even those flag-like sheets of thin, burnished metal which glitter and crackle as they hang festooning the bushes. I hung out such a lavish display of these things that I half feared that neighbours would think I had fallen for the Festival. Whatever the blackbirds thought, they were neither impressed nor scared. It seemed as though nothing would stop them short of deadly work with a shotgun, and for several reasons I was reluctant to resort to that. Memories of their song in springtime was the main reason, costly though that music was proving now in the fruit season. My *cri de cœur* of last September has brought me a great many letters, offering suggestions. One of the most popular bird-scarers seems to be the old device of sticking chickens' feathers into potatoes and hanging them by strings to sway and flutter in the wind. I have tried this. But after a day or two the birds—the birds in this garden—took not the slightest notice of such baubles. In fact, I believe that if I left them on show long enough, the sparrows at any rate would have plucked out the feathers and carried them off to line their nests. A variant of the "spud-and-feather" technique which was suggested was blown-up paper bags, suspended in festoons from strings. One correspondent told me how she kept her kitchen garden clear of marauding birds by having a portable wireless going full blast all day among the sprouting lettuces and peas. I have not tried this radio cure, and am not going to. Much though I want to keep the birds away from my small fruit, I do want to be able to go into the garden myself.

Nevertheless, it would be an interesting experiment. How would the various birds react to the different programmes? Would our finest songsters, especially the blackbirds, slink off, shamed and frustrated, when Elizabeth Schumann or Victoria de los Angeles came on, and would they crowd round the instrument to hear Dennis Matthews playing Beethoven? Would the sparrows, doting on Elgar, chatter and chirp louder than ever, and would the turkeys over the way strut and gobble with unwonted absurdity to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance"? Of one thing I feel certain. Such is the impudence and hardihood of our blackbirds that nothing on the wireless would keep them from the gooseberries but a dawn-to-dusk barrage of Jack Train's "Twenty-Questions" puns.

that it touches the birds when they come on to the forbidden territory. For some strange reason the mere touch of a strand of black cotton scares the boldest sparrow, or any other bird, out of its wits.

Several correspondents have written advising me to string my gooseberry bushes with strands of black cotton, not only to protect the dormant buds during winter, but to save the ripening fruit as well, and I shall most certainly try the experiment. I shall prune the bushes as soon as the soil is dry enough to get about on, and then do the cottoning. I am advised that it is not necessary to put on an impenetrable mesh of cotton, but just enough to touch the birds once or twice when they get busy with their wicked work. That is enough for their guilty and suspicious consciences. I believe that the efficacy of black-cotton protection lies in the fact that it is subtle and mysterious. The touch of those slender and almost invisible strands is as disturbing to them as the feather-soft touches of draught—or whatever they are—that are abroad in a darkened room at a spiritualist's seance.

There is nothing subtle or mysterious about a wire-netting fruit-cage, or a row of wire pea-guards. If birds can find a way in, in they go, and very clever they are at it—far cleverer than they are at getting out again. But the soft touch of a strand of black cotton. Oh, horror! There is a special device which I have seen advertised for threading the cotton into place on the bushes, or on the sticks among crocuses, peas or lettuces. In principle it works like a short



"THE HUGE BAG-FLOWERS, RICHLY COLOURED AND LOUDLY SPOTTED" OF A PARLOUR CALCEOLARIA, IN ITS SECOND SEASON OF FLOWERING.

In his second article on Parlour Plants (March 4) Mr. Elliott noted that a calceolaria which he had thought of as an annual had started into a second season's growth; "but," he wrote, "I had best stop this crowing. Within the next few weeks, and before it has time to flower, it may be consumed by a host of greenfly, or a man may arrive to 'do' my study window, and undo my calceolaria." This superb photograph, taken during this July, records the plant's triumph over all hazards, natural and unnatural. It has even produced self-sown seedlings.

description of the gaunt stems draped in what looked like sodden crepe. That was the end of summer. But now autumn colour has vanished too. From now on we shall be thankful for even the smallest mercies in the way of outdoor flowers, not least of which are the precocious polyanthus primroses.



THE FUTURE QUEEN OF CANADA ENTERTAINS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
IN THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON: PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND MR. TRUMAN.

Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh stayed at Blair House, Washington, from October 31 to November 2 as guests of the President of the United States. In addition to holding a reception at the British Embassy at which she greeted some 1500 guests, her Royal Highness, as future Queen of Canada, entertained the President and Mrs. Truman at the Canadian Embassy at dinner on November 1. She and the Duke left Blair House before Mr. and Mrs. Truman, so as to greet

them on arrival, and remained behind after they had left. Her Royal Highness received her dinner guests, whose number was limited to twenty, in a superb white satin evening dress, her Garter Ribbon across it, with a diamond necklace and tiara to complete the dazzling effect. The Royal visitors were enthusiastically received everywhere in Washington, and the youthful grace, beauty and poise of the Princess conquered all hearts.



A RESTORATION OF AN ANCESTRAL RELATIVE OF MAN: PROCONSUL, A MONKEY-LIKE APE
OF ABOUT THIRTY MILLION YEARS AGO.

Here and on the facing page we reproduce restorations of two possible ancestors of Man based on the discovery of fossil "ape" remains in Africa. In 1931 Dr. A. T. Hopwood, of the British Museum, discovered fragments of fossil apes in Early Miocene lake-beds, some 30,000,000 years old, in the Victoria Nyanza province of Kenya. Later exploration there by Dr. L. S. B. Leakey resulted in the finding of more remains, including a nearly complete skull and pieces of limb-bones of the genus which had been named *Proconsul*. A study of these by Professor W. E. Le Gros Clark at Oxford showed that there were

three species of *Proconsul*, monkey-like apes probably close to the stock which gave rise both to modern apes and to Man. Mr. Maurice Wilson has attempted a provisional reconstruction of the smallest species, which was about the size of a small chimpanzee. *Proconsul* was an agile creature, probably not only capable of climbing trees but of running along the ground on all fours somewhat like a baboon. Judging from associated fossil plants and animals, these early apes lived in corridors of forest between areas of bushy grassland. In 1924 Professor Raymond Dart obtained from a limestone cave deposit at Taungs,

Drawings by Maurice Wilson. Reproduced by permission



A RESTORATION OF AN ANCESTRAL RELATIVE OF MAN: AUSTRALOPITHECUS, AN APE-LIKE CREATURE WHO LIVED ABOUT ONE MILLION YEARS AGO.

in Bechuanaland, the fossil skull of a very young, ape-like creature, which he named *Australopithecus*. Since the skulls of young apes at the present day are more human in aspect than those of adults, it remained doubtful whether *Australopithecus* was closely related to man, until 1936, when Dr. Robert Broom began to find both young and old skulls and limb-bones of related species in the limestone cave-breccias in Central Transvaal. It now appears probable that these creatures were not far removed from the immediate ancestors of Man. Some of them are presumed to have lived about 1,000,000 years ago.

the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History).

They are mostly of pygmy size and with brains no larger than those of apes of to-day, but in many respects they were remarkably human. Even in males the canine or eye-tooth was small and practically level with the other teeth, and from their hip-bones it is inferred that they walked in an approximately upright position. They frequented caves in dry, open country, and may have been partly carnivorous. In making this reconstruction Mr. Wilson has followed expert anatomical advice. The head is based on the skull found by Dr. Broom in 1947 at Sterkfontein, about 40 miles from Pretoria.



THE HELLISH FLOWERING OF NUCLEAR FISSION: AN AMAZING COLOUR PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING FOR THE FIRST TIME A DETAILED VIEW OF THE EXPLOSION OF A "SMALL-SIZE" ATOMIC BOMB.

This extraordinary colour photograph, which has been released by the Atomic Energy Commission, was taken during the American series of atomic bomb tests at Frenchman's Flat, in the Nevada Desert, during January and February of this year. No details have been issued about the picture, but it would appear to be of a relatively small-size atomic bomb and, from the white-hot condition of the heart of the fireball, to have been photographed within a second of the actual burst. The orange pillar below the fireball is formed by dust sucked up from the ground by the explosion, and this dust will go to form in due course the characteristic "mushroom" formation of an atomic

explosion. The bluish-violet haze above the fireball may be caused by the completely vaporised uranium or plutonium of the bomb. Later atomic explosions have taken place in both America and Russia. On October 3, President Truman announced that the Russians had exploded their second atomic bomb (the first was announced in September, 1949); and on October 23 a third Russian bomb was announced and described as being apparently part of a test series. About the same time, in America, there took place what was described as the smallest atomic explosion ever conducted. This last has been interpreted as evidence of an advance in the tactical use of nuclear fission.

From a Colour Photograph by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

U.S. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATOMIC WEAPON: TACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC TESTS IN NEVADA.



(ABOVE.) THE SECOND ATOMIC EXPLOSION OF THE PRESENT SERIES IN AMERICA (OCT. 28) FROM A MOUNTAIN-TOP 50 MILES DISTANT—A RELATIVELY SMALL EXPLOSION.
(*Photograph by radio.*)



BETWEEN Oct. 22 and Nov. 29 (inclusive) there have been seven atomic explosion tests in the Nevada Desert at Frenchman's and Yucca Flats. They have been of markedly different types—as revealed by the visible effects—and have included at least three in which troops were present. Some have been very big and some small—with the inference that differing tactical purposes are being explored. The first (Oct. 22), which is not illustrated, was so small in its effect, the flash not being
(*Continued below.*)

(LEFT.) THE FOURTH EXPLOSION OF THE SERIES (NOV. 1) AND THE FIRST AT WHICH TROOPS WERE PRESENT. DROPPED FROM AN AIRCRAFT AND FELT AT 75 MILES' DISTANCE.
(*Photograph by radio.*)



THE SIXTH OF THE SERIES (NOV. 19) AND THE SECOND IN WHICH TROOPS TOOK PART: PROBABLY EXPLODED NEAR GROUND-LEVEL, WITH A SEQUENCE OF FLASH, BALL OF FLAME, COLUMN OF REDDISH FLAME AND WHITE-TOPPED CLOUD AND NO MUSHROOM.

Continued. visible beyond 50 miles, that it was at first rumoured to be a failure. It is now believed, however, that its purpose was to test downward thrust. The second (Oct. 28) was also relatively small, though seen at 75 miles' distance. The third (Oct. 30) was much bigger and had a double effect and its cloud was described as being of "a breath-taking pink." At the fourth (Nov. 1) troops were deployed in the neighbourhood for the first time. The fifth (Nov. 5) was the biggest of the



THE THIRD OF THE SERIES (OCT. 30): DROPPED FROM AIRCRAFT WITH 200 YARDS OF TARGET AND OF A QUITE DISTINCT TYPE, WITH DOUBLE MUSHROOM AND DOUBLE SOUND-WAVE.



THE FIFTH OF THE SERIES (NOV. 5): DROPPED FROM 30,000 FT. DESCRIBED AS THE BIGGEST OF THE SERIES, WITH THE LONGEST EFFECT. SOME EFFECT WAS FELT 300 MILES AWAY. A DOUBLE HALO WAS PRODUCED. (*Photograph by radio.*)

series and produced a double halo. The sixth (Nov. 19) was watched by troops and was apparently exploded near ground-level. The seventh (Nov. 29), the last of the series in which troops were present, was believed to be an underground explosion and was neither heard nor felt at 75 miles' distance. It is reported that a tunnel was built for this test. An actual colour photograph of one of the Spring series appears on the facing page.

DAILY LIFE AT AN EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET RANGE AT WOOMERA, THE CENTRE



ENTERTAINING THE UNOFFICIAL MAYOR AND EDITOR OF THE LOCAL PAPER: THREE CIVILIAN NURSES WHO HAVE REPLACED THE ORIGINAL ARMY SISTERS.



SPRINGING UP IN THE ARID DESERT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



TEACHING COMMERCIAL ART AT AN EVENING CLASS: MR. M. J. MCINTOSH (STANDING), AN ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMAN FOR WORKS AND HOUSING, AND A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION.



EXPLAINING A POINT IN A BIBLICAL TABLEAU: PADRE H. A. WHO TEACHES SCRIPTURE AND ORGANISES GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN.



A RIVIERA-LIKE SCENE IN THE HEART OF AN AUSTRALIAN DESERT: RESIDENTS HAVING DRINKS IN THE OFFICERS' MESS.



WATERED BY A RIVER MURRAY PIPELINE: FLOWERS, GROWN FROM SEEDS FROM ENGLAND, IN A GARDEN OF ONE OF THE BRICK HOUSES.

A town is rapidly springing up in one of the greatest uninhabited areas in the British Commonwealth—at Woomera, in the arid desert 350 miles north of Adelaide in South Australia. At Woomera rocket range, one of the world's most closely-guarded areas, secret war weapons are tested. The object of the range, described as "Australia's main defence research project," is to do work which cannot be undertaken in Britain. A little more than five years ago the area was a bare patch of desert, where only low, wind-twisted scrub grew among the myriad stones called

"gibbers." To-day a village of more than 300 has grown up. Here, in the midst of desolation, civilians live side by side. Woomera is divided into two parts: the "range," where the secret weapons are tested, and the residential area known as Woomera. It is a well-guarded and much of the work for which it is only in the village that the observer can

